

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-25

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CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7658

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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USMISSION NATO

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AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 5115

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG ETRD ETRN PFOR UR JA

SUBJ: SOVIET PRESS REPORTS JAPANESE CONSIDERATION OF
PLANNED NEW RAILWAY IN SIBERIA

REF: A) MOSCOW 4969; B) TOKYO 4571 AND PREVIOUS

1. SUMMARY. PRAVDA CONTAINS FIRST MENTION IN SOVIET PRESS
EMBASSY HAS NOTED TO DATE OF JAPANESE COMMENT ON BAIKAL-AMUR
RAILWAY FOR CARRIAGE OF TYUMEN OIL TO PACIFIC COAST, AND ON
TO JAPAN. END SUMMARY

2. APRIL 8 ARTICLE BY PRAVDA TOKYO CORRESPONDENT I. LATYSHEV
REPORTS PRESS CONFERENCE BY BUSINESS LEADERS NAGANO AND
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UEMURA, RECENTLY IN MOSCOW FOR TALKS ON SIBERIAN DEVELOP-

MENT. AFTER NOTING FAVORABLE POSSIBILITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT "NO MUTUAL AND EQUAL BASIS" OF SIVERIAN RESOURCES (GAS, OIL COKING COAL AND TIMBER), AND STRONG JAPANESE INTEREST AND NEED TO IMPORT SUCH RAW MATERIALS FROM NEARBY SOURCES, ARTICLE STATES THAT "BOTH LEADERS NOTED IN THIS CONNECTION THE ECONOMIC VALIDITY OF THE INTENTIONS OF THE SOVIET SIDE TO TRANSPORT TYUMEN OIL TO THE SHORES OF THE PACIFIC OCEAN THROUGH A COMBINATION ROUTE (PART OF THE WAY BY PIPELINE AND PART OF THE WAY BY RAILROAD) AND EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT CONSTRUCTION OF THE BAIKAL-AMUR RAILWAY LINE AS ENVISAGED BY SHE STATE PLAN OF THE USSR WILL IN THE FUTURE FACILITATE NOT ONLY THE TRANSPORT OF OIL BUT ALSO COAL, TIMBER AND OTHER PRODUCTS." ARTICLE THEN CLOSES WITH FINAL COMMENT THAT NAGANO STRESSED HIS OWN CONVICTION THAT SUCCESSFUL DEVELOPMENT OF JAPANESE-SOVIET ECONOMIC COOPERATION WILL IMPROVE THE WELFARE OF THE PEOPLES OF BOTH COUNTRIES AS WELL AS "OTHER COUNTRIES IN GHE GIVEN REGION."

3. ALTHOUGH ARTICLE DOES NOT MENTION SPECIFIC REQUEST FOR JAPANESE CREDITS FOR EQUIPMENT FOR RAILWAY AS MADE BY FIRST DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER SEMICHASTNOV IN INTERVIEW TO JAPANESE NEWSPAPER (TOKYO REFTTEL), SOMETHING WHICH IS NOT NORMALLY EMPHASIZED FOR SOVIET READERS, IT DOES INDICATE FAVORABLE ATTITUDE TOWARD PROJECT BY JAPANESE BUSINESS LEADERS, AND ALSO IMPLIES POSSIBLE JAPANESE INVOLVEMENT IN CONSTRUCTION THROUGH PROVISION OF EQUIPMENT.

4. RAIL PROJECT MAY HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED IN TANAKA'S MEETING WITH KOSYGIN EN ROUTE TO PARIS AND/OR HIS MEETING WITH PODGORNYY IN PARIS, BUT THERE IS NO CONFIRMATION OF THIS IN SOVIET PRESS.
STOESSEL

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